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Weekly Update | April 1, 2020

Vol. 4, Issue 1

A Message from Kristen Connolly, History and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

Good afternoon,

My name is Kristen Connolly, and I am the History and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator at South Shore Charter Public School. The current [Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework](#) was formally adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in June 2018. Since then, SSCPS teachers have been working to implement the changes it set forth. Notable updates to the curriculum framework include a greater emphasis on civics, more inclusive standards that reflect greater diversity, and new standards for financial literacy and news/media literacy.

On Level I, students focus on building foundational knowledge of civics, geography, history, and economics. The civics content emphasizes respect, cooperation, and leadership in and out of the classroom. If your child is in kindergarten, first, or second grade, you might have noticed a paper copy of Studies Weekly, a social studies reader, in your child's backpack. Many teachers also use Wit & Wisdom texts, Open Circle lessons, and classroom routines to help students master social studies standards.

On Level II, students narrow their social studies focus to Massachusetts and North America in grades three and four, respectively. Third graders begin by learning about indigenous peoples who lived in Massachusetts prior to European exploration. They then learn about the Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony before visiting Plimoth Plantation. Their studies continue with a focus on the Puritans and Massachusetts Bay Colony, and they end with an introduction to the American Revolution, which students continue to learn about via Wit & Wisdom in grade four and in United States history in grade five.

Fifth graders on Level III build on their prior knowledge and dive deeper into United States history. In addition to analyzing foundational documents and the growth of our country, fifth graders learn about the Civil Rights Movement. Sixth graders shift their focus to study world geography and ancient civilizations. They apply perspectives of political science, economics, geography, history, and archaeology as they learn about prehistoric societies and civilizations that developed in different regions of the world. Seventh graders on Level IV continue their exploration of physical and political geography and ancient societies, ending the year with a focus on Ancient Greece and Rome.



Fifth graders in teacher Ashley Hiehiapo's classes choreographed a special dance to Andra Day's "Rise Up" in honor of Black History Month.

Perhaps the greatest change to the former history and social studies course sequence at SSCPS is the addition of a civics course in grade eight. This course is designed to promote civic knowledge and engagement. Our eighth graders learn about the roots of democratic government and analyze the development of federal and state government institutions. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is working to design a civics MCAS for future eighth graders, and next year's eighth graders will participate in a civics action project.



Eighth graders in Nick Kerrigan’s classes visited the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. Here, students participate in a straw poll.

High school students study United States and world history in greater detail. They are expected to analyze and synthesize more primary and secondary sources and apply their skills to long and short-term projects. While news and media literacy skills are taught in all social studies and history courses, our high school students broaden their skill set in order to think more critically. In Ethics, our social science course for seniors, students consider controversial topics and reflect on their own beliefs. During the recent senior debates, students worked in teams to persuasively present arguments about contemporary issues using effective rhetoric and credible source information. Seniors will end the course by engaging in a financial literacy unit so that they are better prepared for life after graduation.

As students progress through SSCPS, they have increased opportunities to participate in advanced coursework. While students in levels three and four may participate in accelerated social studies FITs, high school students have opportunities to take Advanced Placement® courses that could result in college credit. Several juniors and seniors currently take AP® United States Government and Politics or AP® United States History, and we are gauging student interest in AP® World History, which we hope will be a future offering.



The Mock Trial Workshop celebrated successes this year in both competitions and Exhibitions of Mastery (EOMs) under the leadership of high school history teacher and attorney Margaret Bulger. This photo shows the team at Hingham District Court, where they met with the judge in her chamber, talked to court personnel, and observed many proceedings.

The civics projects that will be implemented in schools across Massachusetts next year in grade 8 and high school are a result of [Chapter 296 of the Acts of 2018](#), An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement, which Governor Baker signed in November 2018. They will be student-led, goal-driven, inquiry-based, and non-partisan. Though the project outcomes are expected to have real-world application and demonstrate student understanding of systems impact, the process and experience of building civic agency and voice are primary goals, and learning from mistakes or perceived failures is an important part of the process.

Within the eighth grade civics course, students will learn about civic identity and community issues. Once an issue is identified as the focus of a civics action project, students will research and investigate in order to cultivate a deeper understanding of the issue, including root causes. From there, they will develop a plan and take action. Finally, they will reflect on and showcase their work. The high school project, which will be facilitated within the Ethics course, is meant to be completed “with a greater degree of independence, depth, and complexity.” You may read more about the projects in the [Civics Project Guidebook](#).

Lastly, our ever-changing world presents us with many opportunities to celebrate positive events and human contributions, but it also presents us with challenging

and disturbing information that can cause anxiety and unrest amongst students, especially as they are exposed to more social media. History and social science practices used within the classroom can also be effective at home. For example, we can help students to:

- Ask questions and conduct inquiries.
- Gather and compare information from various credible sources.
- Analyze the purpose and point of view of each source, and distinguish fact from opinion.
- Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and relevancy of each source.
- Use valid reasoning and evidence.
- Determine next steps and take informed action, as appropriate.

The National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) has developed a parent's guide entitled [Building Healthy Relationships With Media](#). Additionally, The New York Times [Learning Network](#) offers several suggestions for helping older students increase media literacy skills.

Information has been adapted from the 2018 History and Social Science Framework and Civics Project Guidebook (Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) .

UPDATED GRADING POLICY | GRADES 5 - 12

1. The end of the third quarter marking term is Friday, April 3. Teachers will be working on completing grades for distribution by April 9. Because we will be sending out grades for the first time electronically or by mail, you may receive your child's grades the following week, April 13 - April 17. Senior grades close when classes end on May 14, 2020.
2. The grades averaged into the third quarter are primarily those from assignments given on or before March 13, 2020. If your child has incomplete assignments prior to March 13, we encourage you to remind your child to use the next week to finish and submit missing assignments. Teachers have been accepting late assignments and will continue to do so.
3. Teachers will use all grades generated from remote learning over the past two weeks to help your child's average. All learning efforts extended throughout the transition may be recognized. Teachers may opt to use these grades to give students extra credit thereby using points earned through remote learning to improve your child's third quarter average.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Articles for Families

[PBS](#) | [How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](#)

[Child Mind Institute](#) | [Supporting Families During COVID-19](#)

[New York Times](#) | [5 Ways to Help Teens Manage Anxiety About the Coronavirus](#)

[New York Times](#) | [Talking to Teens and Tweens About Coronavirus](#)

Podcasts for Families

[The Daily](#) | [A Kid's Guide to Coronavirus](#)

COVID-19 Government Updates

[CDC Updates](#)

[FDA Updates](#)

[Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)

[City of Boston](#)

Remote Learning Resources for Families

[Zoom Information for Parents](#)

[The Parents' Guide to Google Classroom](#)

IMPORTANT MEAL INFORMATION

DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

If you need further assistance from SSCPS, please contact Kristine Bingham at kbingham@sscps.org or 781-738-6925.

ABINGTON

The Abington Public Schools Food Service Program will be providing grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals to families in need of food assistance. If your family is in need of assistance, please contact Bernie Darcy, Food Service Director, at meals@abingtonps.org or at 781-982-2156 to make arrangements for meals.

ATTLEBORO

Students will have access to a “grab and go” school lunch during this closure. For the safety of participants and staff, our procedure will comply with social distancing expectations. Hours for pick up are 11:30 to 1:00 PM at the

Principal's Entrance at Attleboro High School or the Front Entrance at the Coelho Middle School.

AVON

Butler Elementary School Monday through Friday from 8:00 am-11:00 am. Please come to the door on the left side of the building. Meals will be "grab and go". Lunches will be brought outside upon your arrival. There will be no admittance into the building.

BOSTON

BPS will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all Boston children beginning Tuesday, March 17. Locations will be open Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 11:30 am at the schools listed below and shown on this map in blue. A variety of packaged meal options will be available for pick-up. <https://www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-meal-sites-boston>

BRAINTREE

Offering grab and go meals FREE to all children in Braintree 18 years and under during school closures. Pick up meals between 10 AM to 12 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Hollis Elementary School (482 Washington St) or Ross Elementary (20 Hayward St).

BRIDGEWATER

Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 at the front entrance of Bridgewater High School 415 Center Street, Bridgewater.

BROCKTON

Meals will be available from 11:30 to 1 pm at Brockton High School, North Middle School, South Middle School and East Middle School. Families who plan to pick up meals at Brockton High should use the Belmont Street entrance. Upon arrival, please follow the traffic cones to enter the line. The Food Services team will count the number of children in your vehicle and provide one breakfast and one lunch for each student present. The team will provide reheating instructions when needed.

HALIFAX

Please contact Megan Ahrenholz, RD, School Nutrition Director, 781-582-3556 or mahrenholz@slrsd.org.

HANOVER

Please contact jvlassakis@hanoverschools.org to receive meals during school closures.

HANSON

If you are in need please contact Jeffrey.szymaniak@whrsd.org

HINGHAM

[Complete Survey Here](#)

HOLBROOK

Meal pick up at the Superintendent Office door #3 Monday through Friday 11-12 pm.

HULL

The Hull Public Schools has joined with Wellspring to provide meals to our students on free and reduced lunch. The program will begin on Tuesday, March 17 at Wellspring. Lunches can be picked up every Tuesday from 10:00 and 12:00. Given the need for social distancing, families will drive behind Wellspring to pick up their meal packages. Families that cannot make it to Wellspring to pick up weekly lunches are encouraged to notify us by using the following options so we can arrange home delivery.

Call Central Office (781) 925-4400 ext. 1118 and leave contact information

Email Maggie Ollerhead at mollerhead@town.hull.ma.us

Use this link <https://forms.gle/ft7WRhVmeeJgiwv8>

KINGSTON

Please contact Megan Ahrenholz, RD, School Nutrition Director, 781-582-3556 or mahrenholz@slrsd.org.

MARSHFIELD

Meal pick up at Boys & Girls Club 8 - 11 am.

NORWELL

Please email judith.crooks@norwellschools.org

PEMBROKE

Grab and Go will be available on Tuesday, March 31st and Thursday April 2nd at the Hobomock Elementary School 11-1. There will be tables set up so families can truly grab and go.

PLYMOUTH

Families in need are welcome to visit one of these locations on Fridays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm to pick up a bag of non-perishable food items to take home.

- Indian Brook Elementary School - 1181 State Road
- South Elementary School - 178 Bourne Road
- Plymouth Community Intermediate School - 117 Long Pond Road
- West Elementary School - 170 Plympton Road
- Hedge Elementary School - 258 Standish Avenue (Please enter the back of the building through blue cafeteria door)

Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to food@plymouth.k12.ma.us.

Delivery is available for families who need it. Please visit www.bit.ly/PPSFoodDelivery

QUINCY

Breakfast and lunch will be available for Quincy students to pick up at Lincoln Hancock Community School (Water Street side of building), North Quincy High School (316 Hancock Street), Quincy High School (100 Coddington Street) and Snug Harbor Community School (333 Palmer Street) Monday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM during the weeks of school closure. Beginning on Monday, March 30, Clifford Marshall Elementary School (200 Moody Street Ext) will begin meal distribution on the same schedule. Additional information can be found here: [School Nutrition Meal Plan 3.16.2020](#)

RANDOLPH

Randolph Public Schools will deliver meals at 12:20 am near the rental/leasing offices at Liberty Place, Rosemont Square aka Chestnut West, PAcella Park, Avalon Apartments/Pryne Hills, Franklin Square Condominiums. The buses will stay for 20 minutes. If you can't make it to those sites, the four pick up sites will still remain at the Donovan Elementary School, the Lyons Elementary School, the JFK Elementary School and the Randolph High School

ROCKLAND

Free bag lunch will be served Monday through Friday at the "Mainstreet" entrance of RHS/RMS between the hours of 11:30 am and 12:30 pm Monday through Friday.

TAUNTON

Contact Karen Pappa at kpappa@tauntonschools.org or at 1-508-5859

WEYMOUTH

Student meals will be available for DRIVE-THROUGH and walk-through pick up between 11:00-1:00 each day at Seach Primary School and Abigail Adams Middle School. Each student meal will consist of milk and a bagged lunch. The program will be available each week day during the closure period. This form will be sent out each week for you to complete. These lunch options are FREE for all students. Lunches noted may change due to student participation. We appreciate all families who complete this form to help us estimate demand but will provide food to all families. [Sign Up Here](#)

WHITMAN

If you are in need please contact Jeffrey.szymaniak@whrsd.org

SSCPS YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

To order online go to www.coffeepond.com, to login use school password: bluejaguar.

See the information from [Coffee Pond!](#)

The deadline for families to has been extended to April 30!

Submit a special personalized page for their senior that will appear in the back of the book at these rates: Full page \$150, 1/2 pg. \$75, 1/4 pg. \$50. The yearbook staff can help with any design concerns.

Please email Christine at cbodnar@sscps.org with any questions.

From the Foundation

Annual Fund Update

Please make your [contribution](#) to the Annual Fund today! We are hoping for 100% participation from all of our families to reach our \$75,000 goal.

Wednesday	04/15	Finance Committee Meeting	2:00pm
Wednesday	04/29	Finance Committee Meeting	2:00pm
Wednesday	05/06	Executive Committee Meeting	8:00am
Thursday	05/14	Board of Trustees Annual and Regular Meeting	7:30pm
Thursday	05/14	Board of Trustees Committee Meetings	TBD

Zoom Information for Parents

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

- [2020 Annual Family Survey](#)
- [Free and Reduced Lunch Pick Up Information](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- Visit our new online option to [purchase](#) SSCPS apparel
- Community Interest: Click here for information on [Team IMPACT](#)

Here are links to upcoming events and other items of interest. Please contact Pam Algera at palgera@sscps.org to submit SSCPS items for publication.

School Documents

[2019-20 School Calendar](#)

[2020-21 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

[Pick-up Procedures](#)



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www.sscps.org

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4/30/2020

Weekly Update

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